(c) whether this issue was also raised in Jharkhand High Court through a PIL;

(f) the reply filed by the Jharkhand Government against the PIL; and

(g) the steps taken by the Government to meet the power requirement of the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) and (b) No Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed by the undivided Bihar Government with National Hydro-electric Power Corporation (NHPC) regarding the Koel Karo Hydro-electric Project, (710 MW) now located in the State of Jharkhand.

(c) to (f) The Government of Jharkhand had filed an affidavit in response to a Public Interest Litigation (PIL) filed by the Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Smriti Kendra wherein the State Government had informed the High Court of Jharkhand that various issues and questions of far reaching importance and magnitude have to be taken into consideration and decided by the Government of Jharkhand before the State Government can take a definite stand on whether to construct the project or not. The issues *inter alia* relate to the acquisition of over 16,000 hectares private land as also taking possession of a large area of forest land. This would involve dislocation of a large number of families. The other major issue relates to the comparatively high tariff of power from the project and the project cost. The State Government also said that they would not be able to commit at this stage any time frame within which a decision could be taken in respect of taking up the implementation of the project. Keeping in view the difficulties expressed by the State Government in their affidavit, the Court dismissed the PIL on 22nd February, 2002.

(g) The Eastern Region as a whole, of which Jharkhand is a constituent, has substantial surplus power.

Kanti Thermal Power Station at Muzaffarpur City

†3273. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether agro based industries and other Small Scale Industries are suffering a lot due to shortage of electricity despite Kanti Thermal Power Station being located at a distance of only a few Kilometers from Muzaffarpur city;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) whether Small Scale Industries of Muzaffarpur city and farmers of its adjoining areas are facing hardships and normal business and life has came to stand still due to power crisis; and

(c) whether Government would make arrangements for direct supply of electricity for agro based industries, agricultural activities and other activities of Muzaffarpur from Kanti thermal Power Station?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) to (c) The overall energy shortage in Bihar during the year, 2001-02 was 4% and 7 to 9% in peak. Eastern Region as a whole (of which Bihar is a constituent) has substantial surplus power. The power shortage in Bihar is attributable to its financial constraints and consequently its inability to pay for purchase of required power from the central sector stations besides inadequacy in Transmission & Distribution (T&D) system. In order to improve the power supply position in the State, the State Government needs to strengthen the Transmission and Distribution system and take steps to reduce Transmission and Distribution losses. Central Government provides funds under Accelerated Power Development Programme to States for this purpose.

Supply and distribution of electricity in a State is the function of State Government/SEB concerned. Power supply to various categories of consumers is in the purview of the State Government. Arrangements for direct supply of electricity from Kanti TPS for agro based industries and agricultural activities and other activities of Muzaffarpur have to be decided by the Bihar Government keeping in view the overall availability of power in the State.

Extension of interest subsidy by PFC to project in Karnataka

3274. SHRI H.K. JAVARE GOWDA:
DR. (MS) P. SELVIE DAS:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of loan sanctioned so far to major projects in the country through Power Finance Corporation;

(b) whether the Government of Karnataka has requested Power Finance Corporation to extend the interest subsidy scheme to new five projects; and

(c) if so, whether Government has agreed to the request of Karnataka?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) Power Finance Corporation (PFC) has sanctioned